¶ The Description of Swedland, Gotland, and Finland, the auncient estate of theyr kynges, the moste horrible and incredible tiranny of the second Chrystiern, kyng of Denmarke, agaynst the Swecians, the poletycke attaynyng to the Crowne of Gostaue, wyth hys prudent prouidyng for the same. Collected and gathered out of sundry laten Authors, but chiefly out of Sebastian Mounster.

By George North.

(.˙.)

¶ Set forth accordyng to the order in the Quenes Maiesties Iniunction.

¶ Imprinted at London by John Awdely, dwelling in litle Britaine Streete, by great S. Bartelmewes.

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(.˙.)

¶ To the ryght Woorshypfull, and hys synguler good Mayster, Mayster Thomas Steuckley Esquire, hys obedidient seruaunt George North wysheth prosperous health, wyth encrease of muche worship.

(.·.)

AL aũcient historiographers (my singuler good Mayster) for theyr difficult trauayl, merite most hye laud, whose famous woorkes reueleth to our memory the secrete doinges of tyme past: and also bewrayeth to tyme present, the vnknowen actes of oure Elders. For although by ẏ course of Nature, their bodies are kylled: yet lyueth theyr good or euyll deedes, in the euerlastyng report of letters. Amonge these none deserueth more praise, nor worthy of more veneracion, then the most noble writer Sebastian Moũster: whose large labour greatlye surmounteth the doynges of any other. Thys Mounster both compendiously & briefely (and yet eloquently and truly) entreateth, not onely of one, & hys own natural soyle: but generally

of al Nacions, the situacion of their Countries, the maners of theyr people, wyth the ryghtes and vsages of their Princes. In Whose volume it Was my fortune to reade the description of Swedlande, Gothland, & Finland. And findyng these Countries to be so large and fruitefull, theyr Kynges so noble and auncient, & theyr people so mighty and valiaunt. Consideryng the vertue of Princes to be a myrrour to looke on, & their vices a terrour to thynke on, & also for that swyft Fame hath published the reporte of these people vnto vs: I thoughte meete to reduce the same hystorye into our vulgare tounge, thoughe not so copiously and eloquentiye as any learned myght haue done. The situacion and naturall lying of theyr great and large Countries, the rytches, fertilitye and fruitfulnes of the same, wyth theyr noble & notable Cities, I haue briefly ouerpassed. The old estate and auncient raygne of theyr Kinges, With theyr diuers and sundrye alteracions, sometyme by the Danes, sometyme by the Norwayes, and sometyme by deuision among them selues.

I haue

I haue in few words collected. But the horrible and cruel tyranny of the second Christiern kyng of Denmarke, against the Swecians, and hys iust reward for the same, the poleticke attaining of King Gostaue to the crowne, hys triumphant Coronacion, hys prudent gouernyng, with the vertuous prouidyng for the education & learned instruction of the moste noble Eric nowe Kyng of Swecia, I haue most amply declared. Gathering the report hereof out of sundry Authors, as John Magnus, Archbishoppe of Upsalen, Saxus Grammaticus, and Sebastian Mounster, whose aucthoritye I haue chieflye folowed. Proferynge the same (to your worshyp) as the fruites of my trauail in your absence: acknowledging herewithal the remembraunce of my seruiceable deuty and good wil to your Mastership, whose large & ample benefites I haue not seldome tymes receyued, with your fauorable goodnes, not onely to me, but also to euerye one, whose nede you knew to want your reliefe. More, what friend remaynes vnrecompenced of any friendshyp towardes you? What

stayed hand hath wythdrawen any gyft of yours from him who desyred it, and whom you thought worthy to receiue it: Besydes these your liberalities, your own trauel in forreyne & straunge nacions wyth the perfect vnderstandyng, & almost natural speakyng of theyr languages: importeth you to be as tryme a Courtier, as you are knowen to be a worthy Soldiour. I woulde dilate your seueral vertues, but I feare to incurre your displeasure thereby, whose eares enuieth the hearing of your own praise, & whose tounge thundreth oute the good fame of others. Also some sclaunderous Sicophãts would saye my pen dyd flowe rather wyth affection and flattery, then wyth troth and veritye. But to suche (as neuer learned to speake wel) I answer (that besides the part of a Seruaunt) I haue wayed more your inward naturall inclination, then your outwarde franke doynges, although they are sufficient wytnesses wyth me of thys my reporte. Most humblye desiryng you to accept in good part thys my vnlearned labor, that I haue vnder the defence of your goodnes.

nes putin publyshe prynt, whyche if it be thankfully taken, may encourage me hereafter to attempt larger Workes, whereby I truste as well to profyt my Countrye, as to content my selfe. Wyshinge the prosperous succesſe of Fortune to cal you to your harts desyre, wyth the fruitfull continuaunce of helth betwene you and my Wyfe, whose goodnes both I and myne haue oftē tymes aboundauntly tasted, to whom I wysh lyke prosperitye. Whose mynde is frayted wyth a nomber of sober vertues.

(.)

Your bounde Seruaunt, as I haue euer semed George North.

The description of the most flouryshyng Countrye of Gothia, or Gotlande, wyth the auncient raygne of theyr noble Princes.

THys Woord Gotlande in the Germaine toung doth interpretat a good ground or good land. And amongst the Northeast Regions, thys Countrye of the Gothes is most fertyll. It is also to be preferred before the rest, for the aboundaunt yeldyng of all maner of fruites and bonye, and chiefelye for that it hathe suche goodly pastures, whereby their cattel are fed both great and fat, full of large Forestes, with apt & pleasaunt Ryuers. They haue great store of all maner of Marchaundies, & in euery place is found such plenty of vsual necessaries, that their superfluities sufficeth to enterchaunge wyth others, aboundyng with precious furres and mettailes, but chiefely wyth Copper.

The fruitefulnesse of Gothia.

The Gothes & the Swecians tyme out of mynde, & euen from the beginning of their beynge: haue vnited & knyt themselues in leage & amitye, both vnder one law and one King. And also they haue apointed the confines & boundes of both Countries to be as one kyngdome. Yet haue they often tymes occasion being offered (as those chaunces are vncount) sequestred & deuided themselues the one from the other, and eche nacion haue had their seuerall king. Notwithstanding their deuision was neuer certayne, neyther dyd it longe remayne betweene them: but that they were ioyned agayne with contented subiection vnder the authority and gouernment of one Prince.

The Gothes & the Swecians haue tyme out of mynde, bene vnder one Kyng.

Prince. At home & neare hand agaynst their neighbours the Swecians haue euer preuayled: but abroade in far & straunge Countries, the glorye of the Gothes wyth their mighty and bloudy battels by the report of Fame haue greatly exceded. They wrestled of long tyme with the Romaynes, & being ouercommed, they woulde for a while be quiet: but attempting againe the doubtfull hazard of battel, they haue with great discomfiture and destruction of the Romaines, suppressed & ouerthrowen their mighty and almost inuincible armies. Also not seldome times with equal victorye, or litle losse they haue departed. And at length treading downe & ouercōming their whole Empire: they past through Italy, where w great wast & destruction they sacked Rome. They possessed Italy no smal tyme, they occupyed Fraunce, and they grounded them selues so in Spayne, that they chiefe Nobilitie dothe discende from them, as the Romayne histories doth mencion.

Merchandise and against they neighbours, the Swecians haue euer flourished, but abroade the Gothes

The gothes sackt Rome they possest Italy, they occupyed Fraunce, & made sure foundation in Spayne.

Gothland boundeth wyth his Northe limites to the South of Swecia, & lyeth from the West to the mountaynes of Norway, which are frō the lymites of Swecia, to the mouth of the Riuer Trolheta, frō the South and the East it ioyneth on the sea. The townes & cities of this Country, be many and great, Lodhusia a Porte towne, wher great trafike is vsed, Waldburgurbs hath a strong & fayre Castel, Halmstat, Elsinburg, Landskrō Calmaria with a goodly Castell. Stegholm, Sundercopia, Norcopia, Lidercopia a city that standes vpon the riuer of Uener, Uasten & Huetland. 2. trymme townes, Uestrogothia a Dukedom, whose cities be Scaris and Uarnem, where are the Sepulchres & graues of they auncient kyngs. Ostrogothia a Dukedom, whose cities

The noble cities of Gothlād, wyth hys Dukedomes.

be

be Schemingia & Lincopia, where their byschops sea is: Halladia, Smalandia, Tnischia, Uerindia, Blechingia, al Dukedomes. Wisby a City of the Gothes, wher was wont to be their auncient & famous Mart, but now (by the often incursions & afflictions of the Denmarke and Moscouite Pirates) it is depopulated and left delarte. The ruined monuments do yet apeare, bearing wytnes of the flozishing estate of the place. Here was the fyrste certaine abiding & buiiding of the Gothes, the whyche the Meotides dyd occupy. There is at this present days a goodly Castel & a Monestary, wher in is a brotherhod of the ozder of Saynt Benedic, hauynge a Libzarye of 2000. Auethozs, & old auncient Histozies. Out of thys Countrye, and other the Northeast Regions doth come the rytch furres of noble Beastes, & chiefelye the costlye Sabels, which are wonderfullye esteemed. They neuer hunt them, but in the Wynter, foz then Nature makes their furre thickest and surest. They haue an Iland enuironed with the Sea, repozted to be in length. 28. Germayne myles, it is greatlye adozned wyth fruitfulnes, foz hys fertilitie and plentiful abounding of al thinges, it is called the Mother oz nozisher of Swecia.

Wisby ruyned by the Denmarke & Moscouites pyrates.

A Libzary of 2000. sundzy authozs

An Iland of Gothia. 28. Germayne myles in length.

Of the auncient Kynges of the Gothes & Swecians, after the auethozity of John Magnus, Archbishop of Vpsalen.

Wagog kirst kyng of the Gothes.

MAgog nephew to Japhet Noes sonne (as wit nesseth Joseph in his firste booke of Antiquities, the .11. chapter) was ỹ father & foũder of the Scithians, & was the firste that raygned kyng among the Scithians in that part of Europ, that now

now is called Finland. This Magog had.5. sonnes, the eldest called Swenus, from whom the Swecians receiued fyrst their proper name. He succeded his father in the kyngdome. And after him his second brother named Gother & of som Gog, raigned king. After Gother Ubbo the third sonne of Magog was elected kyng whose raygne was after the flud.246.yeres. Thys Ubbo long before the tyme of Abraham, dyd build the city of Upsalen which now is their Metrapolitan seat, he dyed and was buryed in the same City. After whose death Siggo attayned to the kyngdome, and ruled wyth muche honour the terme of.65. yeres, geuyng place to nature the.402. yere after ẏ floud was buryed at Upsalen. Whylst Siggo raygned in Swecia, Eric the fyrst was chosen Kyng in Gothia: he gouerned with so muche Justice as anye prince thē myght do, he made lawes & decrees, such as ẏ world then best myght beare. Uertue did so gouern hys kyngly aucthority, that many histories report him to be, not onely the chiefe & worthiest, but also the fyrst king of the Gothes, and the Swecians, he dyed after the floud 425. From hym to Berico, onelye the names of theyr kynges remayn, as Uddo, Alo, Othen, Charles, Biorno Gother, & Siggo.

Magogs.5. Sonnes.

Ubo bylded Upsalen, before the tyme of Abraham

The vertuous gouernment of the fyrst Eric.

These names onelye remayne, Uddo, Alo, Othē, Charles, Biorno Gother, Siggo.

Berico by the common consent both of the Swecians and Gothes dyd enter into the Monarchy of both kyngdomes, after the floud.836. he was the.14. kyng and the first that led them out of theyr Country. They departed out of Gothland & Swedland, from the creation of the world.2831. and after the floud.875. & before the cōming of Christ.1430. at what tyme Othoniel iudged Israell. This Berico left the crowne to hys sonne Humulfus, geuing him therwithal a fatherly charge for the wel gogouernyng

Berico the 14. kynge, & ẏ fyrste that led thē out of their cōntrye.

uerning of his Country. After hym raygned Humelus cousyn to Humulfus, vnder whom the Danes rebelled, which the Saxons seing, inuaded Denmarke, wherby they were compelled of necessity to yelde & submit themselues againe to Humelus. After whose death his sonne Gothilas succeded, he raygned with no lesse valiantnes then did hys father, he dyed & lefte the crowne to Sichtruge.

The Saxõs inuade Denmarke.

Thus farre by the auctholity of John Magnus, Archbishop of Vpsalẽs with others: hereafter foloweth Sebastian Vounster, whose auctholity I haue chefely folowed.

(.˙.)

¶ The antiquitie / the doynges, the encreaſe, and the rytches, Wyth the naturall ſituacion of the moſt flouſhyng and largeſt Country of all the Northeaſt Regions, named Sweonia or Swecia, as it is commonly called Swedia.

SWecia hath lying vpō his Weſt partes the Gothes, vpon the North the Wermilanes, wyth the Scrickins, on the Eaſt, Finland and Ruſſia, and vpon the Southe, the ſea Balthicke. Thys country doth yelde his greateſt aboundaunce of al fruites towardes the North, where the earth beſtoweth her nouriſhing giftes of kinde plentifully. And alſo there is gathered muche ſtore of honye, very ritche of Syluer, Bras, Leade, Iron, and Cattell. They haue lykewiſe all kinde of fyſhe, which is not onely receaued of the Sea, but alſo generallye of theyr Riuers and Pooles. And for Beaſtes to hunt bothe wylde and tame, eyther for pleaſure or profite, no countrye can haue more.

Rytche of Syluer and other metals.

Swecia, as it is wel knowen in largenes, people, metall, and al other thinges, doth twiſe excel the kingdome of Norway: yet there be in many places, hils ſo ſharpe & hye, and Maraſis ſo deepe and watry, that they are not paſſable, neyther wyth Horſe nor Chariot.

Swedia dothe excell Norway.

Their Imperial City is named Stockholme, not ſo byg in quantity, as it is wel fenced and furniſhed, bothe by Nature and Arte. It ſtandeth in a Mariſh grounde, much lyke the ciruatiō of Venis, from whence he taketh his name. For although it be builded in water: yet is the

Stockholm their chiefe City.

foundacion very strong & sure. The sea entreth into it by two great and large armes, that any shyp ful fraited, may sayle with her burden into eyther of them.

A pitifull fyre not often heard of

After the incarnacion of Christ. 1307. this city was wonderfully afflicted, and almost vtterly ruined, by a fyre that fell from heauen. For when the lyghtnyng had taken hold of the houses: it miserably burnt & broyled as well the people, as their goodes. There perished in this pitiful flame. xvi. hundred men. But moste part of the women, with an innumerable sort of maydes, conueyed them selues with their substaūce & childzen abourd such shyps as lay in their hauens, & with thē not a few men. Notwythstandyng, before they could depart, the whole multitude (fleing from the peryl of present death) violently imbarked them selues with the rest, & hauing no regard to their common calamity, dyd ouer charge theyr shyps, in such sort that the waters deuoured them both.

A thousand and syxe hūdred menne burnt.

A wonderful and a lamentable chaunce.

Such as wyth great hope & hasard, escaped the hatefull death of burning: here ended their lyues with the vnlucky chaunce of drowning. (An example to the worlde, no les worthy to be noted, then it is of al men to be pitied.)

Thys country of Swecia is ful of Marchandize for straūgers, & for their own necessaries, they haue inough to make exchaunge with others. They haue also great store of precious furres & mettals. The hye Mositaines of Norway & Denmarke, are playnly and perfectly sene of them. It is for a trothe reported, that the inhabitants of Swecia, haue a wonderful kinde of curtyse entertainment wyth them: for they account hym an euyl & naugh tye man, that denyeth to the straunger lodgyng, so that contencion & strife doth often chaūce among them, who shall first receaue the traueler into hys house. Where as

A greate kynd of curtesy.

they

they pay neither for meate nor drinke. And besides this, they wyll guyde their Gest to hys next baygbt, lendyng hym horse and other necessaries, for the quicker dispatch of hys iourney. (What greater honour can one do to his country, then in vsyng a straunger friendly?)

In Swedland the trauailer paieth not for hys bytails, but in corporate townes.

The people of Swecia are many, of strength & armes mighty, both on horsebacke & a foote. In battel bold and valiant, eyther on the land or the sea. The Dukedome of Angermani, conteineth the North partes, to the confines of Laponia, whose country is full of great woods, and large Forestes, where their chiefe wylde beastes are hunted. The Dukedome of Medelpathus, occupieth the south of Angermani, after whom lyeth the Dukedomes of Helsingia, Gestricia, Firingia, & Upsalia their Metropolitane city, the Dukedome of Coperdalia, where ther is a valley that groweth ful of Copper, also Dalecarlia a people strong & mighty in armes. The Dukedome of Uplandia, which hath all hys Countrye with mynes of Siluer, Copper, & Steele. They haue a notable city called Nicopia, strongly fortified wyth hye walles, & great Bulwarkes. Kolmolnemus deuideth Swecia from Gothelande, by the Poole that stretcheth out a longe from Nicopia.

A valley þ groweth ful of Copper.

Uplandia ryche of all mettals.

Of the Kynges of Swecia.

TO seeke the fyrst spryng and originall of the Swecias, my labour should be no les therin, thē an endles trauel, & I thinke it as vnpossible for others to finde, as my selfe, both for the antiquitie of their name, and also the auncient state & continuaunce of their raigne. Notwyth standing that whych passed tyme hath cōmitted, to the

report of letters (which of al auctorities is accounted oldest) I haue here briefly collected.

There were 17. Kings in Gothlande & Swedia before Sichtrug.

Long time past and long before the natiuity of Christ, Sichtrug (as saithe Saxus Gramaticus) reigned kyng of Swecia, tyl such time as Gram kyng of Denmarke dyd ouercome and kyl Sichtrug in battel, whereby the Swecians were made for a whyle subiectes to the Danes. Then Swibdager kyng of Norway expulsed and draue fourthe Grame bothe out of Denmarke and Swecia, by whyche meanes he brought all three kyngdomes vnder one crowne. Suche alteracion and ouerthrowes of Princes, as our Elders haue seene them, so we in our daies haue feit the proofe of them. For when fortune is disposed to daly with Princes, she maketh theyr seat so much the hygher, that theyr fall in the ende maye be the greater.

The kyngdomes haue but one kyng.

The daungerous dealyng of Fortune.

After Swibdager succeeded hys sonne Halmond, in the kyngdomes of Swecia & Norway. Uffo after Halmond, and Hindin after Uffo, Hynding succeded Hindin and after his death he left the crowne of Swecia to his sonne Hotbrod. Who, whilst he striued to amplefy & enlarge hys kyngdome: lost both it & hys lyfe. Whereby a way was made for the Danes to the crowne of Swecia. But Atisle & Hother, the sonnes of Hotbrod, considerying the straight tribute of the Danes, recouered (& for a small tyme enioyed) the crowne after their Fathers death. For Rolfe, kyng of Denmarke inuaded Swecia, and slew Atisle in battel. He tooke the Regall name of a King from them, and would in no wise haue them beare any Princely dignitye, but to remayne subiectes onely to the crowne of Denmarke. Tyll such tyme as Hiartur (a noble man borne of Swecia) dyd so enter into the fa-

uour and grace of Rolfe, that he graunted them the title of a Lieftenant, appointing therwithal a yerely tribute to be payd. And because he wold be the moze assured of hys fidelity, he gaue hym his syster in mariage. Swecia is made a tributary lieftenantshyp.

The ieftes & doynges of Swecia remayned in thys state but a whyle: For Hiartur dyd cut of the heade of Rolfe, & he againe of the Danes was polde by the same Barber. Then Hother the brother of Atisle (whō Rolfe dyd kyll) seyng the Regall seate voyde of a kyng, dyd wyn the Nobilities fauour so muche, that they possest him wyth the same: and also they made it easye for hym to bringe in subiection the kyngdome of Denmarke, whych he dyd. But as wyth small trauel & lytle tyme he obtayned it: so wyth inconstancy, and lightnes of minde in les whyle he lost it. For Baldar dyd driue hym out of Denmarke. Not long after Hother was slayn in battel, where vpon the Nobility beyng weary, & loathyng the yoke of the Danes, dyd make Atille (one of the bloude Royal) kyng. Thus passed their state for a tyme, wher in no notable thyng is founde to be done amonge the Swecians, wether the Danes to them, or they to Danes were subiectes. But as by histories it is certaynlye knowen, that aboute the time of Augustus Cesar, Alric was kinge of Swecia, who was slayne by Eric, a man of wyt excellent, of toung eloquent, & of handes ready & valiaunt, who vanquished Alric, and raygned kynge after hym. Thys was the same tyme, that Christe descended from heauen, & tooke vpon hym our mortal nature. Haldan the sonne of Eric succeeded hys father in the kyndome of Swecia, who was slayne, and hys sonne Siward as heyre to his father, possest the crown. Then Eric the sonne of Siwardes doughter and the sonne of Froto

Denmarke subiect to ỹ crowne of Swedia.

At what tyme Christ descended oute of heauen.

Betwene.2. stooles, the tayle goeth to ye ground

Froto kyng of Denmarke dyd both step in for the kyngdome, but they ended theyr raygne by mutual battell, & Haldane the second did get into the Regall seate, a man onely geuen to the warres, regarding neither the maryage of wyfe, nor the gettyng of chyldren, esteming more the field conquest, then the bed victory, rather delighting in the bloudy dedes of Mars, then in the pleasaunt pastimes of Uenus, not wythstandyng he apoynted who should weare the crowne after hym, which was Ungulnus. He dyed & left both Swecia and Denmarke, vnder the gouernment of his sonne Siwald. After whom Reignold, and after Reignold Aluer, one of the noblest men in Swecia successiuely raygned kynges. Then Ingus the eldest of Aluers three sonnes dyd lawfullye succede hys father. But he deuidyng the Realme wyth hys brethren Olaue and Ingellus, did onely reserue to him selfe the general decree of al lawes. He was slayne with his brother Olaue in the Denmarke warres, & Ingellus by the victors consent enioyed the whole kingdome. Ringus beyng yet but a chylde, dyd raygne after hys father Ingellus, and after hym Gotare, who was slayne in battell agaynste the Danes, whereby the crowne of Swecia came to Jarmeric kyng of Denmarke.

The kyngdome deuided betwen thre brethrē

Thys was aboute the yeare of Christe. 380. at what tyme the Gothes, that longe before were gone oute of Swecia and Gothia, made great spoyle, and wonderfully troubled the Romaynes both in Italye, Spayne, and Fraunce. The Gothes which continually remained in theyr countrye, dyd vnit and knyt them selues to the Swecians, bothe in lawes and maners, and euer synce haue bene subiectes to the kynges of Swecia.

¶ Who

Who were Kynges of Swecia, after Charles the great.

SInce the yearely histories and actes of Swecia, from Jameric to Fro, is vnknowen to me: I am compelled to let slyp and ouer leape that tyme. Fro was kyng of Swecia when Lodowic the sonne of Charles the great, dyd syt in the Imperial seat of Rome. Thys Fro was slayne by the wemen of Norway. And Herot chosen kyng in hys place which left the succession to Sorle, whom Regner kyng of Denmarke ouercame in battell, whereby the crowne came to Biorne the eldest sonne of Regner, who after the trauel of a few yeares in Swecia, gaue place to Fortune. For Umichsert the second sonne of Regner was chosen kyng for hys brother. And after hym Eric the thirde sonne of Regner was apoynted to raygne in Swecia.

Fro kyng of Swedia was slayne by the wemen of Norway.

But Osten a man nobly borne of the bloud royall of Swecia, did oppres and ouerthrow Eric, and tooke the gouernement and rule of hys native countrye into hys own handes. Now the brethren of Eric, both to reuenge his death, and also to get their old regiment, did so trouble and vexe the kyngdome of Osten, that they brought the crowne to Sturbiorne kynge Biorns sonne, wyth whom Fortune dalyed but a whyle, for he was lykewise ouercõmed and driuen out of Swecia, by Eric sonne to Olaue, a coulin to Regner. This man enioyed ẏ crown wythout any let, trouble, or daunger, who left the kyngdome to his sonne Olaue, which quietly possest the same and was the first among the Swecia̅ kyngs that openly professed Christ. He receyued the holye sacrament of Baptisme, and was named Iames.

Olaue the first kyng ẏ professed Christe in Swedia, & was christened Iames, the yeare of Chri. 1000.

There

There were manye in Swecia that longe before hys time did secretly professe the faith, and tooke vpon them the holye order of Anscharius. Thys was the yeare of Christ. 1000. at such time as holy Hary was Emperour of Rome.

After James his brother Emonde (borne of a harlot) & a Christian onely in name, dyd succede to the crowne, a man in marcial affaires nothing fortunate. He left the kyngdome to Stinkell, a very good Prince (better worthy of the place, then his predecessor) for the Christian religion dyd greatlye increase in hys tyme. He pulde downe & banished the Idolatry, that the Upsalieus did vse, whereby he much honoured his country. & wan him selfe a fame perpetuallye. He also appointed the same place to be their Metrapolitane City.

What two striueth for, the third enioyeth.

About the yeare of Christ. 1100. he yelded to nature her due, after whose deathe, twoo Erics not wythout great slaughter & effucion of noble bloude, contended for the crowne. But Halsten sonne of kyng Stinkell, vpon the vnlucky end of both these Erics (who perished in battel) as lawful heire posseth the kyngdome, from whence he was by rebellion driuen out agayne, & Animander chosen kyng in hys place. Who for hys crueltye to religion, vvin a lytle while after was compeld to treade the steps of hys predecessor, & Aquine elected kyng in hys roume.

The Gothes deuided from the Swedians.

Then Magnus the sonne of Nicholas kyng of Denmarke (by the helpe of the Gothes, whych were wearye wyth their often chaunge in Swecia) was made kyng. The Gothes deuiding them selues once more from the body of Swecia, and gaping for an alteracion, dyd trust that the Imperiall Crowne shoulde chaunce to hym, whom they would assigne it to. The Swecians (beyng

valiant

valiant of mynde) would not beare so great an iniurye, that their old & auncient custome of chosyng their prince should be by any altred. Wherfore they determined that their king should be elected and appointed at their pleasure. They aduaunsed to the crowne one of their owne countrey, and not onely not regarded, but also despised the kyng which the Gothes had made.

The Gothes stubburnly and rebellyously resisting the decree and sentence of the Swecians, dyd make ciuyll warres agaynst their newe kyng, whom they dyd ouercome. And because they would haue Magnus to raigne (which was of the Gothes election) they made the Imperiall seate voyde of a Ruler. The Swecians auoyding domestical discencion, & internal hatred, did condiscend and agre wyth the Gothes (not by compulsion, but by request) that Magnus shoulde be kyng. After whose death, they generallye exalted Swercone to the kyngdome. Who left a sonne named Charles, that quietlye & peaceably succeded his father, at the tyme of Waldimar kyng of Denmarke, to whose doughter he was maried.

The Swecians lothe of ciuyll warres.

After Charles reigned Eric, who quietlye passed hys lyfe with the Danes, & was about the tyme of Christe 1249. Whose fate & fortune beyng at an ende, they made great variaunce & discord with the kyng Birgerius. He left the kyngdome to Waldimare, who takyng his viage into the holy land, did leaue the protection of his realme to his brother Magnus, which with vnnatural rebellio did vsurpe the same, & would neuer surrender it againe.

Birgerius succeded Magnus and tragecally enioyed the crowne. For when he thought him selfe most assured and in the type of al hys glory: he was depriued by Eric his brother, & cast into the wretched bandes of impri-

The vncertayne state of a prince.

ment. From whence at length, being by good fortune deliuered, he ioyned his sonne Magnus quopartner with him in his raigne. Birgerius now at libertie, & knitting a malicious reuenge with his auctoritie, did cal to remēbraūce the spiteful wrongs he had suffred at the handes of his brethren. His vnquenchable colour kyndled so fast for repaying the like euyll, that he would by no meanes be pacified, til that with their bloud he was satisfied.

A vnnaturall murder among brethren.

When hys brethren least feared hym, and when they thought the stinking mist of al malice to be voide, then did he with a fained coulour of frendshyp request them to a banquet, where in the myddest of their mirth, they were cruelly slaine. This horrible & detestable fact dyd so creepe into the eares of the Commons, that it moued euery mā to the iust reuengement of so murdrish a dede.

Then he with his Quene fled, & left his sonne Magnus behinde him: whose heade recōpensed the offence of his father. After whō they aduaunced Magnus the son of Eric (which was behedded at his brothers banquet) to the imperial crowne. His raigne was so prosperous, that with the help of vertue, and the fauour of good fortune, he ioyned the country of Norway to his kingdom of Swecia, & was crowned king of both countries. He yelded Nature her due the yeare of Christ. 1326. and left a sonne called Magnus, heire to bothe the kyngdomes.

The kyngdom of Norway knyt to the crowne of Swedia.

Magnus did promis the mariage of his sonne Aquine to the natural sister of the Earle of Holst, on this condition, that if Aquine receiued her not a Maide, al the noble men and rulers of Swecia, shoulde be free of theyr othe and alegeaunce to the king. This Maide saylinge into Swecia, was taken vpon the sea of Waldimar, king of Denmarke, & Margaret, Waldimars doughter was

was maried to Aquine: Which thyng the Gouernours of Swecia perceiuyng, denyed their duty & homage to their Prince (because he kept not promise with them) & forthwith they were sent of the Earle of Holst to Albert Duke of Magnopolis, father in law to the sayd Earle: who had maried Eufemia the kings sister, whose sonne named Albert, they would haue to their king, and so depriued Magnus from al his royall dignitie.

But he seing him selfe deposed & forsaken, dyd ioyne with Aquine to make cruel war against Albert, whose force nought auailed, for Alberts power was more able to resist them, then theirs was to ouerthrow him. Wherfore Magnus was compelled in the ende, to be contented with his banishment, wherein he dyed.

Magnus died in exyle.

Albert being now established, and with princely auctority confirmed in his kingdome: did apoint hymselfe with al honourable furniture, fyt for a King, & leauing the charge of the regall gouernement, in the handes of Wismarie, did sayle to his Countrey Magnopolus.

In the meane season whilst these thinges were a doing, Margaret the doughter of Waldimar king of Denmarke & Norway, after the death of her husbande, protected the two kingdomes with her litle sonne Olaue. And hauing a desire to the regiment of Swecia, she began to quarel with Albert, king of the same. They both leuied two mighty armies, & committing the successe of their good or euyl fortune, to the bloudy lot of war, Albert (who hadde finished the course of hys prosperous raygne) was wyth his yonge sonne Eric, of Margaret taken prisoners, with whom they were kept in miserable captiuitye, the lyngring tyme of seuen yeares. By which ouerthrowe of Albert, the thre kyngdomes were

The valyāt and haught mynde of a woman.

Margaret Queene of ye three kyngdomes.

ouermoze subiectes to one crowne, and haue alwayes remained so euer since. The Norwaise neuer chaūging nor disagreing: but the Swecians refusing to beare the troublesome yoke of a straunger, haue often tymes shaken of the societie of the Danes.

Now Albert vpon this condicion was delinered oute of prysou, that he should within three yeares folowyng, pay three score thousand marke, or els deliuer the town and Castel of Stockholme, otherwyse to be imprisoned againe. Albert would haue surrendred the City, but the Swecians would not by any meanes agree to it, he being therfore in dispaire, and voyde of all hope of recouering hys kyngdome, dyd geue vp al, and contented hymselfe wyth his old Magnopolus.

The mighrye Margaret triumphantlye raygnynge Quene of the three kingdomes, passed her youthe wyth great pompe among the Swecians, tyll suche tyme as crooked age, with creping pace ouertoke her (whose stalking steps none can ouer runne) and then by the cōmon counsel and consent of her rulers and gouernours, she adopted Eric Captaine of Pomeranie to her sonne. After whose death he was made kyng of the three kyngdomes, & quietly passed his tyme a great while amonge the Swecians. For Philippa the Quene his wife, and daughter to the kyng of Portugal, dyd most commonly lye in Swecia, where in the end she dyed.

The Cappitaine of Pomeranye is made kyng.

Some say þ this Philippa was þ kyngs daughter of England.

Now the kyng hauing continual warres, & wantyng money, dyd (contrary to his othe) spoile the Swecians, and sought al the meanes he myght to impouerishe the country, because it semed welthiar & much more ryther then the rest. Which made the Nobilitie to declare their impacience with open enuy (for the Swecians, as they

are slow

are slow to conceiue a wrong: so are they quicke in the reuenge of iniurie) but when this was reported, and perfectly related to the Earles of Eric, he which for his euil estemed nothing, litle regarded it. Tyll suche tyme as Engelbert (a noble man both by birth & condicion) dyd rayse rebellion against him. And where as he had fortified the Castels and Fortes of Swecia with captaines & officers of the Danes: Thys Engelbert remoued thē, and did constitute & apoint Swecians in their places.

The final regard of princes, is often tymes cause of their own distruction.

Then Eric at the first wyth great expedicion, sought to feare Engelbert wyth cruell threatnynges, whyche nought auailed, for his magnanimity was able to counterpaise the others enuy. Wherefore he rayled a mighty army, thinkyng thereby to pacefy the Swecians furye. He saylinge with hys parnicious companye towardes Swecia, was preuented of his purpose by a terrible tempest, wherin most of them were drowned. And Eric him selfe compeld to land with a few, where he sawe by experience that fauour and not force, wold banquish the Swecians. Althinges chaunging contrary to his expectacion, he dyd wyth muche speede and lyttle gayne returne into Denmarke.

At lengthe the Portes & townes adioyning to the sea, made this concord & agreement betwene Eric and Engelbert: Eric shuld be kyng on this cōdicion, that no Danes but Swecians should beare office in their holdes, their Cities shoulde keepe their olde liberties, and their marchauntes their accustomed fraunches. The kyng beyng resident in the country, should receiue hys whole reuenewe, and beyng absent, but the one halfe.

A kyng lyke conditions.

These thynges agreed vpon, he saild into Denmarke, where the Danes takynge example of the Swecians, prescri-

prescribed certayne rules and orders, which they would haue compelled their kyng to folow, wherby much trouble happened in their country. He therwithall wonderfully offended, did gather together as much treasure as he might. And swearing neuer more to medle wyth the troublesome state of a kyng, dyd sayle into Prussia.

Eric forsooke hys kyngdome.

After whom Christopher Prince of Palatine, & Duke of Bauar, cousin to Erics sister, was generallye chosen by the chiefe Rulers of the three kingdomes. Whereby they thought to haue prouided a great tranquilitie and quietnes to their Marchauntes. This man altered nothyng in Swecia, tyl such tyme as (not contented with his owne prosperitye) he began to enuy their countrye. And then he heaped vp al the treasure of the kingdome, as wel that which was gathered of many yeres before: as his own, and sent it away by the sea.

After whose death the Swecians would ioyne their kingdome no more with the Danes, but with a muche better wyl dyd chuse to their kyng Charles Canutus, one of their owne, a worthy Gentleman, & nobly borne, of the old & auncient bloud of the kinges of Gothea and Swecia. He scant had finished .vii. yeares in his raigne, when he began to ware very greuous & couetous in all thinges, altring his noble nature, from vpright Justice, to seuere & cruel punishment, accounting his wyl in eche decree to be a law, which caused hys faythfull & louyng subiectes to reuolt and turne from hym. When he perceiued that they swelld so agaynst hym, suche thinges as he had before his election, he gathered together, and placing the treasure of the crowne in a sure hold, imbarked him selfe and went to Gedanus. When the kyng was crosse saild, and wanting nothing for hys departure, but

The Swedians refuse to be knyt wyth the Danes.

Seruets counsel bredeth contempte to the Prince.

onely

onely waying of Ancker: one of his noble men demaunded of hym if he had not left something a shore vndone, whych he would haue executed. To whom the kyng with a great sygh answered: Yes verely, I haue neglected longe tyme syns, the executyng of thee and thy lyke, which yf I had then done, I had nowe quietlye remayned in the common wealth.

This is not founde in Wounster, but ye shall rede it in the history of the Gothes.

Then Christiern (whom the Danes and Norwayse had elected for their kyng) was called into the kingdom to be crowned, whereby the thre kyngly titles did ioyne agayne in one. Not long after, the Swecians did moue iust rebellion agaynst kyng Christiern, because he kepte not promise with them, nor did not wisely obserue those thinges he had taken in hand. The kyng therfore the .7. yeare of his raygne, & the yeare of Christ .1469. dyd enter with cruel battel into the coūtry of Swecia, wher as ỹ inhabitantes being knit together, did easely resist him. Notwithstanding thys repulse, he had .2. Castels in the Country, that wonderfully vexed & troubled the Swecians. Afterwarde the kyng entryng agayne wyth an army into Swecia: could doo no good for hym selfe, nor damage to his enemye, for the strayghte passage of the mountaynes. In the meane season Charles Canutus that was kyng of Swecia, dyed: in whose place they chose Steno, one of theyr worthy Captaynes, to whom they gaue the authority of a kyng, but not the name. He myght call & commaund all the Swecian Princes and Rulers to anye affayres about the Realme: suche one whom the Germaynes name a Marshal, the Frenchmē a Constable, & the Romaynes a Mayster of the Horse. In great reuerence and estimacion was thys Steno, among the Swecians. For they accounted hym as well

The Swecians chose Steno to be gouernour, to whō they giue the auctoritye of a kynge, but not ỹ name.

worthy

worthy of the crowne, as any of his predeceſſors, which they not ſeldam tymes offered hym, wyth the name of a kyng, but he continually refuſed it. John the ſonne of Chriſtiern, beyng placed ſucceſſor in both ỹ kingdomes of Denmarke & Norway, dyd alſo gape for the crowne of Swecia. Whoſe expectation they lykewiſe had ſatisfied, if he would haue bene bound (as the reſt of his predeceſſors were) to the obſeruances of al their old lawes and cuſtomes, whych he refuſed, vnles he myght haue it wyth the franke auctority of a Prince.

John kyng of Denmark dio gaps for the crowne of Swecia.

Many yeares paſſed whilſt the affayres of Swecia, remayned in thys ſtate, and chiefelye becauſe theyr protector was of ſuch Juſtice, that the people had no deſyre to a kyng. Now John the ſonne of Chriſtiern, gatheryng together an excedyng great and myghty army, did lead them into Swecia: Where after many bloudy battels, he conquered the Country. Not long after, when the kyng was buſyed about the determinacions and apoyntmentes of hys doynges, ther roſe a rumur among the people, how eaſely they myght recouer theyr liberty: The kyng beyng ſo buſely occupyed aboute the eſtablyſhyng of his own eſtate. But he perceiuyng theyr murmuryng mindes, dyd leaue hys wyfe wyth a Garyſon in the Caſtel of Stockholme, & priuely departed out of the Country. The Quene thus left, the Swecians did beſiege the Caſtel, wherein ſhe was, & at lengthe by the extremity of famyne & hungar ſhe yelded, and went to the Monaſtery of ſaynt Bzydget, from whence ſhe was after the ſpace almoſt of two yeares delyuered by Raymond Legat of Rome. In the meane tyme kyng John dyd leuy a huge army, to cary into Swecia; where he hauyng many friendes whych ſent hym word eyther to

John kyng of Denmark dothe vanquyſh Swedia.

Kyng Johns wyfe is almoſt .2. yere a Nunne.

bzyng

bryng fifty thousand men, or els his trauel should be in vayne. Notwithstandinge he attempted thys warre, wherein he litle preuayled, hauing his sonne Christiern a soldiour wyth hym. After the trauel of a smal tyme in these doutful doynges, he dyed, and lefte Christiern hys sonne in hys place.

Fyfty thousand Danes go into Swecia, and preuayle not.

The tragicall hystorye, and tiranicall doynges of the second Christiern king of Denmarke.

CHristiern the second, king of Dēmarke, & son to John, dyd plainly demōstrate in his youth where vnto he would be chiefely addicted in his age. For beyng a soldiour vnder his father in the Swecian warres, he vsed hym selfe verye fierce and cruel, & in peace at home double & deceitfull.

This Christiern ful fraighted with ambicion, & as it should seme naturally enclined to mischiefe, began immediatly after hys fathers death wyth haught mynde to make ciuil warres, and first he enterprised to inuade Swecia. But when he perceiued them to be of suche great myght, that as long as there was no domesticall discencion nor vnnaturall hatred betwene them, they could wel defend their countrey nerehand, & also subdue their enemy abroade: He practised to get that by policy, whych he could not get by force and therfore he went about to kyndle contencion, and to sowe sedicion amonge the Swedian confederates.

Christiern kyng of Denmarke doth enterprise to inuade Swedia.

Fyrst he procured to this treason, Gostaue the Metropolitan Byshop of Upsalien. Who by the instigacion of Christiern, did not onely condiscend & agree therunto

hym selfe, but also alured a great nomber more to ioyne wyth hym, whych were fully determined, and certainly apoynted the yere of Christ. 1517. to betray and delyuer theyr country to kyng Christiern. But as soone as thys treason was related, & perfectly knowen to the seconde Steno, generall Gouernour of Swecia: he presentlye perswaded and exhorted the Byshoppe to leaue of hys euyl begun enterprise, friendly chargeing hym to remēber the end before the beginning, and not to take that in hand, which should be the destruction of his natiue and natural country, & also purchase to hym selfe an euerlasting infamy. But the bishop cōtemning this fauorable admonicion, dyd with a stedfast mynde continue in hys trayterous entent, & now seing hys diuelish doinges to be bewrayed, he fled for refuge to the Castell of Stech, where in he was by Stenoes soldiours besieged.

Gostaue ẏ Byshop of Upsalien, goith about to betraye his country

Friendlye admonicio.

The byshop besieged in the castel of Stech.

Christiern kyng of Denmarke hearyng of the daunger that Gostaue was in, lyke a faythful confederat, did leuy an army for his deliuery, trusting by hys power to set the bishop at liberty, & also by his might to vanquish the country. But he beyng driuen backe & ouerthrowen by the Swecians, was compelled to forsake the rescue of Gostaue, and to returne with the losse of a great nomber of hys men into Denmarke. The Byshop vnderstādyng of the vnfortunate successe of hys companion, beyng voyde of al hope, & vtterly in dispayre of al ayd: dyd fayne a repentaunce, & was contented symplye to yelde hym selfe, onely the siege to be raised. It was agred vpon, & the Byshop thus deliuered (because he would seme to be perfect sory for hys offence) he left hys ecclesiastical dignity, & priuately lyued of hys own patrimony.

Christiern ouercōmed and dryuen out of Swedia.

Gostaue faineth a repētaunce, and doth yelde.

Now Christiern seing the head & chiefe instrument of hys

hys confederacye to be vnarmed, whereby the rest that wer of no such auctority (as the Bishop) might ẏ easlyer be dismẽbred: he began to execute his malicious enterprise w̃ open force, & gathering together a huge & mygthy army, dyd leade them into Swecia, fullye bent wyth his monstrous power to ouer run the country, & to subdue the people with cruel seruitude. He incamped round about Stockholme, makyng hys fyrste attempt wyth theyr chiefe & principal Citye. But the Swecian soldiours laced hym & his army in so straight, that they could get neyther victuel for thẽselues, nor forage for theyr horse, whych caused hys hoste to perysche wyth extreme hunger. In thys miserable estate they remayned almost two monethes, plaged wyth al euyls & discommodities that myght be, and returne into Denmarke they coulde not, the wyndes were so aduers agaynst them.

Christiern the seconde tyme dothe inuade Swecia.

Stockholme besieged.

The extreme hunger of ẏ Danes.

Fleyng therfore to hys old & pryuy mischiefes, he practised the deliuery of hym & his (by craft) from those extremities, wherein they were wrapped. For beyng thus wyth the sharpe & gredy plague of famin ouercõmed: he desired truse, & an end of the wars. Steno (Gouernour of Swecia) wyth glad mynde condiscended & agreed to the peace. He also considering the horryble penury of his aduersaries, did (vpon a valiant & pityfull mynde) lend into the campe of the Danes a nomber of Biefes, wyth other victuel, wherby the paynful hunger of hys enemies was relieued. Christiern faining a great fauour to Steno, & fraudulently semyng to be muche beholdyng vnto hym, for thys good turne of hys, dyd send into the City, requestyng hym friendly to come into hys tent, & speake with him. The which Steno (who ment all truth) had done, if the Senate of Stockholm had not stayed him.

Christiern practiseth his deliuery by craft.

A treaty of peace.

The noble dede of Steno.

Steno was wyse of dis cyght.

for he was so noble of mynde, that he thoughte no dis-ceite could lurke in a Princes brest. But the Auncientes of the City, consideryng their wealth & decay to remain in hys parson, would not suffer him, vpon so slender an entreaty to depart out of the towne.

The Dane deuiseth yet another mischiefe.

The Dane therfore perceiuyng this euyl to be spyed, or at the least frustrate: dyd yet deuise a nother mischiefe, declaring how he would come into the City among thē, if he might haue pledges for his safe returne. Steno be ing therto throughlye perswaded, dyd appoynt certaine yong noble Gentlemen, to be his warrauntes. Among whom was the most valiant Gostaue Erichson, Father to the noble Eric, now kyng of Swecia. He wyth the rest, cōmitting them selues to the fidelity of the Danes, entred into theyr Campe, from whence they were caried to their shyps, and there (contrary to the expectacion of Steno) were bound in Irons.

Gostaue Erichson father to Eric nowe kyng of Swedia, is sent for a pledge to Christiern, who caryed hym prysoner into Dēmarke.

The king thus falsefying his fayth, dyd not according to his princely promise come into ỹ city: but waying his ankers, & hoysing vp hys sayles, made speede with hys pray into Denmarke. The Swecians (not without iust cause) did greatly enuy the infidelitie of the Danes, and also deplored & lamented for the losse of these noble mē. Who were by the fraudulent dealynges of Christern, cleane against the lawe of armes, forceablye made, not pledges (as apointmēt was) but prisoners, as the Dane would. After this slight, Christiern the space of .iiii. yere was quiet: strengthning his power with men, & enrytching his cofers with money, remaining still in this detestable purpose, & diuelish entent (at tyme conuenient) to scourge Swecia with some greater plage. Unto which furious madnes Nature had borne hym, will had framed

Christiern returnes into Dēmarke

med him, & Fortune had apointed him. Leuying therefore a great army, did once more inuade Swecia. Steno remembring the Irregal part of Chrisiern, with an ireful minde of reuenge, did wyth great expedicio make haste to meete him, & fully bent to trye the might of his enemy: did ioyne battail with him. Where Steno playing the part of a noble Captain, & also of a valiant Soldiour, manfully fighting in the face of his aduersaries, receuing many & greuous woundes (not without great losse to his country) with high laud was slaine. After whose ouerthrow the Swecians for a while did fiercely maintaine the fyght, their bloudye bodies possessing those places being dead, that thei were apointed to kepe by their captain being alyue. Notwithstanding the bold & haught courages of the Swecian soldiours could not long preuayle, the power of the enemy being so great, & not onely their field leader, but also their commō welth Gouernour being killed. Therfore they were compelled to commit the safegarde of their owne lyues to flyght, and like men without a Captaine left the field.

Chrisiern doth ỳ third time inuade Swecia.

Steno playing the part bothe of a Captayne & a Soldiour was slayne.

Gostaue the counterfeit bishop, vtterly drowned in all mischefe, & naturallye enclined to disceight, cloking his euil & naughty desire with poore repentaunce, couering his crafty entencion with the cloude & darknes of fained holynes, who seined to liue solitarely tyll this present. Whom no gladnes could reioyce, nor no pleasure could please: now seing his natural countrye men thus ouercomned and dispersed, lyke an vnnaturall beast with a ioyful minde, did shake of his discemuled simplicity, and vnbridelyng the raine of his hipocritical lust, creping out of his lurking Iuy tree, returned to his trayterous vomet: muche more glorying in the victorye of Chrisiern, then

Gostaue shaketh of his discemuled simplicitye.

Gostaue returneth to hys trayterous vomet

then bewayling the lamentable ouerthrows of hys countrye men.

The wynning of one fielde was to the kyng no conqueſt, nor the loſſe of one battell was to the Swecians no ſubiection. Wherfore he went about once againe to compaſſe with craft his pretenſed purpoſe, & gyleſullye determined (vnder the fauourable name of peace) to execute great cruel & incredible euils: which he could not ſo perfectly bring to paſſe by the force of his army: therfore he ſolicited the Senat of Stockholme to an honeſt and perfect agrement.

The Senat of Stockeholme ar ſolicited to peace.

The treatye was broughte to thys ende, that they were contented with any honeſt condicions of peace: ſo that the vncertain and miſerable broile of warre myght ceace. They ſo muche regarded the quiet eſtate of tranquilitye, that they preferred thys diſceitfull amitye, before the aſſuraunce of theyr owne ſafetye. The Auncientes and chiefe Rulers of Stockholme dyd preſcribe the Articles which were theſe: Chriſtiern ſhould keepe and mayntaine the lawes and cuſtomes of theyr Countrye vnbroken, he ſhoulde not infringe nor take awaye the liberties of their Cities, he ſhoulde forgeue and forget all ſuche as had worn armour againſt hym.

The condicions of peace.

The Dane (who neuer deſyred quietnes, but to ſome miſcheuous ende) had ſuttellye conceiued all theſe thinges in his heade before, knowing that this agreement was the path way to hys inhumane purpoſe. He ſwore a ſolempne othe, writynges were drawen, both of theyr peace and amitye. Whereunto they dyd ſeuerallye ſet their handes and ſeales.

The wrytinges of peace ar drawen & cõfyrmed wyth their ſeuerall ſeales.

The Citizens throughly perſwaded, or rather innocently blinded, by this fraudulent diſceit: laid open their

gates

gates to theyr enemies, & receiued their new reconciled friendes into the City, wherinto many of the Countrye dyd enter wyth them. Not treatyng them straungelye as late aduersaries, but curteslye wyth muche gentlenes, as auncient friendes, dyd vse them honourablye.

The Danes enter into Stockholme

Christiern dyd dwel in his mischeuous dissimulacion, tyll suche tyme as he and hys Souldiours were of their trauelous toyle well refreshed, and also had the Castell of Stockholme stronglye fortefied wyth his Garisons, wardes, and watches. Then longyng and lustyng for his horrible entencion, and boyling in hys diuelishe desyre, he called the Danes to a Councell, belchyng oute the rancour and poysoned deuise of hys murdrish mind, for the destruction both of the City and Citizens. He asketh their iudgement, howe and by what meanes he myght best destroy them, eyther by force or polecye.

Christiern doth cal the Danes to horrible counsayle.

O thuse vnhappy Citizens, and most vnfortunate Swecians, what ment you to laye open your gates for suche a Geast, whose Fame, Fortune, and hyghe felicitye, dyd enlarge hys libertye wyth spightfull affections? Coulde not hys often double dealinges haue warned you? Could not the ensample of his first breatche of promise teache you? Nor would not the suretye of your owne persons suffice you, but that you must open your bowels, and cut foorthe your entralles to feede your enemies wyth your bloude? Why dyd you not preuent thys dampnable counsell? Was there no Prophet among you? Was there no celestiall sygne shewed vnto you? Could no Swecian eare be so happye to harken to thys conspiracie? That whylst you walke vp and dow n the Citye, thynkyng your selues in moste securitye, the bloudy lottes of your lyues be drawne.

The bloudy lot of their liues be drawen.

O cruel

O cruell Chrisstiern, coulde nothing remoue nor induce thy vicies, to dread the terrible punishment of murdrish mindes? What great and greuous tempestes of hatred lurked in thy brest, that thou must needes thus thunder out thy horrible and dampnable sentence, against those that reuerenced thee, regarded thee, and honoured thee? They were become thy subiectes, & thou shouldest haue bene their king. They tooke thee to defende them from forein force: and not to spoyl them with cruel slaughter. They tooke thee to rule with Justice, and not to raigne with rigour. They chosed thee a king, and not a kyller. They tooke thee a Man, & not a Monster. How muche diddest thou digresse from humaine nature, when thou apointedest thy selfe for an instrument of murder? Whet was become thy sences? could no perill feare thee? could no reason rule thee? nor could no shame withdrawe thee from thy detestable entent? Did not thy conscience waren thee? Did not the horror of mynde trouble thee? nor did not the swift course of fame bashe thee, which transporteth Princes doinges to the extreme confines of the world? Was there no good counseller in this assemble? Was there no Dane that durst dissuade thee? Haddest thou no faithful & free friend in al thy company? not one that loued thee? not one that frankely would reprehende thee? not one among them al that tendred more thy honour, then thy fauour? O pityful case. Were they all as thy selfe minded, and thou as they determined? A mete king for such coūselers, & apt subiectes for such a Prince.

The Swedians tooke Chrisstiern for a king, & not for a killer.

Fame flieth fast & swyftly wyth Princes doinges.

The Danes tender more their kings fauour, thē his honour

Now for this traiterous conspiracy against the Swecians, whose counsel was most woorst, that was best allowed, & whose tale tended to most tirannye, that was best lyked. For amonge all their diuelishe deuises thys

dampna-

dampnable sentence chiefelye pleased: That Chrystiern should appoynt a general triumphe & feast for his Coronacion, wherunto al the Nobility & Gentlemē of Swecia would repaire, with a great nomber of others. And hauing them once within the Citye, by the coulour of friendly chere & familiar countenaunce, he might the soner & with lesse daunger, ouerthrow & confounde them. Then he might execute that which his beastly immodecate, & importunat nature did driue him to, when as no wisdome, no power, nor no polecy should redresse theyr woful cause, so suddein a mischief cōming vnlooked for. The axe should lye on their neckes, before they shoulde thinke to dye. Their weapons warme in their bloude, before they coulde iudge any harme, and heapes should be murdred, before they should finde the peryl.

The deuyse of their byuely the attempt.

This was thought by the whole consent & societye of thys facinorous assemblye, to be the chiefe and perfecte meane for the vtter decay of the whole countrye. The kyng also greatly alloweth this practise, & burning with an incredible desire, to accomplishe & bring to effect thys horrible deuice: he commaundeth the feast, he maketh great preparacion, he appointeth the order of the triūphe, he geueth honorable entertainment to al the Nobility, lodging most part of them in the Castel, he prouoketh a myrth, he semeth to reioyce, he vseth al men with a smilyng countenaunce friendlye. The Danes set out themselues in al thinges merely, and the Swecians doo the same, not knowing that their bloud should pay for their banquet. Three daies continued their good chere, wherin there wanted nothing that might force a gladnes.

Chrystiern burneth for the sequell of hys tyranny.

Three daies continued their good chere.

But now the doleful fate of the Swecias approching, and their miserable & murdrish tormentes at hande: no

one among them al could spy the imminent peril of their present destruction. No hart panted, no flesh trembled, nor no minde was moued with any motion of their present end. Christiern (whose cruell courage vehementlye thursted for the attempt of this tiranny) dyd sende hys Garde into the Castel with straight commaundement, violently to bynde & spoyle the Swecian Geastes (who wer in the middest of their banqueting myrth, pleasantly passing the tyme, more reioycing in long life, then preparing for present death) & to cast them into Dungeons. Now beginneth this fury to heape mischiefe vpon mischiefe, nowe doth he repugne against humaine nature, & with an incredible audacitie surmounteth hys hellyshe purpose. The day folowing the gates of the towne wer rammed vp, the Liefftenauntes were sent out to defend ciuyl force, & the Trumpets were cõmaunded earlye in the morning to sound their bloudy & dreadful noyses. Al the mighty soldiours wer apointed to be ready through the City in their armour, with terrible & cruell countenaunces, like wilde and horrible Monsters. That what with the roaring noyse of the enemy, & the feareful clashing of harnis, euery one should more doubt hys owne death, then eyther the losse of the Citye, the resisting of the aduersary, or the safegard of his owne familye. It was also apointed, that what with spilling of bloude & slaughter of Citizens, no place, no streete, nor any waye should be voyde of most dampnable murther. And that from the Castel to the Market place al shoulde be ouerthrowen, torne downe, and ruined wyth the warme bloud of the vnfortunate Swecians. Then was there brought from the palace two Bishops, Scarenois, and Strengenenois, which wer with pulling, halyng, & terrible

Christiern thirsteth for the attempt of his tiranny.

The Swecians in the myddest of their bãket.

The beginning of this diuelyshe myrth.

It was appoynted þ no place shoulde bee voyde of slaughter,

rible thrusting amonge a sorte of tirannicall villaines, brought to the place of execution. There stoode an aultare before the counsel house: where they being cruellye throwen agaynst the grounde, lost their heades. After them the Rulers, chiefe Officers, & Auncientes, wyth suche as were knowen to haue done any thing boldly in the defence of theyr Coūtry, & also the Senat of Stockholme, men graue, wytty, and wealthy: were al drawen from the Castell, & all together were most tirannousslye murdred. Then made they a prescript table, wherein was written the names of those whom they wold haue slayne. With this the Garde ran through the Citye, executyng theyr detestable mischiefe vpon all those whom they had marked. From the which no man coulde flye, nor hyde him selfe, for all places of refuge was shut vp. The Danes augmented their monstrous doinges with al lewd & vngracious actes, both of handes & body. For the Soldiours and common people beynge mingled together, was cause: that with vehement violence thei did not onely kyl such as wer apointed, but also others that wer but lookers on of so cruel a spectacle. They spared none, they pitied none, nor they regarded none: but entring into their houses, did draw out their vnarmed naked and yelding bodies to the slaughter. So muche did the diuelish desire of hellysh madnes conquer them, that they executed infinite, cursed, & wycked vengeaunce, as wel agaynst God as man. When as in thys tumult & bloudy broyle, a great nomber of the Citizens had hydden them selues in darke & secret places: and Christiern perceiuing a many that had not as yet tasted of his tyrany, he caused to be proclaimed from the counsel house, that al such as liued, & had escaped his terrible tormēts,

Twoo Byshops behedded.

The auncientes, Senate, & chief Officers, ar tirannously murdred.

A Table made, wherin is wrytte the names of thē that shoulde be kylled.

A generall slaughter.

Some Citizens hydde them selues

A false proclamacion.

should remayne vnpunnished, & be free with their lines. The good fame and report of this most horrible disceite and false lye, so crept into the eares of the vnhappy Citizens (whose hartes were wrapped in infinite miseries) that wher as they lurked with some safety in obscure & vnknowen corners, they came abrod and opened themselues to their enemies, at whose hands they foūd neither fauour, grace, nor mercy, but present death. For the example of their former tirannies proceded likewise vpon these: The Garde was cōmaunded to cōmit euery one to the sword, whose bloudy myndes voyde of al pity dyd murther as many as they could fynde, & so continued tyl such tyme as al were kylled. The loude clamour of the Danes, & the pitiful noyse of the Matrons (playning with shryking cries, for the death of their husbāds) myngled wyth the hydeous gronynge of the murdred Swecians, was horrible to heare. Al places was fylled wyth armour, carkases, bloud, and lamentation.

The verye countenāce of slaughter.

A most cruel & detestable tiranny.

Because Christiern would haue his tiranny the more to excel: he dyd with great villany & spight take a certain noble man, whose name was John, & cleane against al lawes, both natural & humaine, he spoyled hym of hys apparel, and (in contempt) naked, nailed him on a crosse. Who long hangyng there in great payne & penurye, dyd commit the reuenge of his innocencie, to God: & with lamentable teares bewayled the miserable estate of the City. The Dane ouercommed with furious wrath, and wrapped in odible mischiefe: dyd cause the natural & secret members of the deade, to be cut of, & cast at the face of him that was on the crosse. Afterwarde they stroke him through the syde, where they tooke out his hart, & flonge it in hys face. So great, so large, and so immode-

The Dane wrapped in mischiefe.

Christiern doubleth his tiranny.

rate

rate was his irefull mynde, that he doubled hys tyrannye, wyth violent force.

They chiefely persecuted the whole house and family of Ribingus, towardes whom they vsed such & so much cruelty, that when there was no more lefte of sufficient age for slaughter: they tooke the yonge children, & tying their tender yeare in knots, hanged them on cages. Commaunding his flagitious Tormentours to cut of theyr heades, and let the deade carkases to fall on the fylthye ground. This done, he willed that al their bodies, wyth the rest of those that wer murthered, should be brought into the Market place, where on with gasing & gapyng like a fury of hel, he fed his wrathful eyes, satisfied hys monstrous lust, & fulfylled the delyre of his most horrible mynde, with this his outragious & fierce mischefe.

The family of Ribīgus cruelly persecuted.

A pitifull murder of Chyldren.

A most horryble syght to loke vpō.

Three dayes dyd their dead bodies lye there in moste lothsome wise, wrapped & defiled all ouer in their owne clottred and congeled bloud. Those that yet plunged in the panges of painful death, aspiring with panting and feable breath to their fatal end: did with trembling flesh (neither quicke nor dead) bequeth their wofull spirites to God. What eye so mercles could stay from teares, to behold such torne bodies dismembred of their lymmes, and to see such pale & wan visages (as dead carkases do represent) whose innocent ghosts (no dout) the heauens possest. No hart but Christierns woulde haue executed such detestable tirannies. No men but Monsters could haue bene apt instrumentes for such a murther. As he was, such was his seruauntes: For what he commaunded, that they fulfylled in most extreme wyse.

Three daies dyd they; dead bodies lie in ỹ market place.

Christierns harte was stonye.

After al this, Christiern (not yet fully satisfied, nor perfectly glutted in these facinorous factes) gaue straught

commaun-

Their dead carcases are buryed in pryuies.

Steno is drawen out of his graue

commaundement, that their carkases should be cast into stincking sinckes, filthy pits & priuies, without the City. He drew the bodye of Steno out of his sepulture, so much did the rage of tiranny gouerne him: that his desire of deuouring, was like a gredy Hound. Who coulde be safe from his fury? or how was it possible for anye to be free from his malicious dedes: when as the close and secret graues could not hide nor kepe their dead frō him.

The cruel countenāce of homicides.

When he had on this maner depopulated and wasted the City of men (leauing not one that the biting edge of weapon myght harme, nor sparing of any that the twyned cord might strangle) he turned all to rapine & theft. The Wiues were spoyled of their Husbandes, the Infantes & tender Sucklinges of their Parentes, the Widowes of those thinges they best loued, namelye theyr Children, their Friendes, their Kinred, and of all their goodes. Virgins were defloured, Maydens were rauished, their auncient Monuments wer rased, their Temples ruined, no prophane nor sacred thyng was spared. Whylest the Tiraunt was executing of these detestable mischiefes within, he kept fast the gates of the Citye, least the horrible fame, & cruel cry of their euyls, shoulde haue fled into the eares of the Countrye, whereby iust warres myght partly haue reuenged theyr moste abhominable doinges. What studdes of teares sheword down from euery mans eyes, with dolerous sobs? What plunging sighes boiled out of euery mans brest, with mased myndes? What thundring noyse roared foorth of euerye mans hart? What desperat musis, what terror, & wyth what inward feare euery one was laden & clogged withal, through the whole Country (when the horror of thys incredible newes was perfectlye reported vnto them?)

The lamentaciō of the Country.

there

there is none, but may iudge. Some Fathers lamented the losse of their Sonnes. Some Chyldrē bewayled the cruel end of their Fathers. Some Wyues playned the woful death of their Husbandes, & some friendes sorowed for the terrible tormentes of their Familiars, but generallye euerye one pitied the miserable slaughter of their country men, and with great despight enuyed the hellysh doynges of the Danes.

When Christiern had thus finished the end of all hys murdrish factes: he departed the City, and in his iorney went to an Abbey, called the New valley. Where of the Abbot and Monkes, he was honorably receiued, friendly entertained, and gently bled: hauing al thinges ministred to him & his at their desire. The Tiraunt did faine a great loue towardes them, taking verye thankfullye, their diligent curtesy. And beyng there on Candelmas day, he went to their Church, and heard seruice: neuer offering nor shewyng anye signe of mischiefe, tyll suche time as their ceremonies wer done. The vnquenchable flame of his ripe euyls & pestilent doinges, woulde not be by any meanes repressed nor extincted: for the bloudy seede of murther was so rooted in his tyranous harte, & the hurle winde of mischiefe & renting breath of vices, had shipwrackt in hym al princely vertues. For after he had receiued such honorable chere, wyth an admiracion of the Abbots prouision: Immediately when they sacred seruice was ended, he belched out his poysoned nature, callyng the Monkes to account for his good entertainment, rewarded them wyth bynding, beatyng, and drowning. The Abbot by fortune escaped their handes, and prouyng to saue his lyfe by swymmyng, the cruell and most pernicious companye of the Sayers, dyd so wound

Christiern departeth from Stockholme.

Christiern commeth to an Abbey, called the New valley where he executeth a cruel tirany

Tirani was rooted in ꝑ hart of Christiern.

A cruell account.

wounde hym, that loosyng hys strengthe, he was lykewyse drowned.

Thus thys Christiern full gorged wyth the bloude of the Swecians, and laden wyth rytches, slaughter, and spoyle, leauing a garyson of Danes in the Castel of Stockholme: sayde wyth his horrible praye into Denmarke. He scourged Swecia with the plages of battell, theft, murder, & al other kinde of mischeuous euyls.

Christiern loden wyth bloody spoil, returns into Denmark

The diuelysh fury of Gostaue the counterfayt Bysshop.

Gostaue the falle and counterfaite Bishop, desyryng (contrary to his sacred profession) to excel in the bloudy fury of a soldiour, and delyghtynge in the daungerous broyles of battel, dyd thrust out irradical, and violently pull vp by the rootes al such as against his mynde possest any spiritual possessions, or enioyed anye ecclesiasticall dignities.

Chow Prince Gostaue escaped out of captiuity, and after deliuered his Country.

Prince Gostaue prysoner in Denmarke.

The most noble Prince Gostaue Erichson, sonne to Eric, nere of bloud to Charles Canutus, the last kyng of Swecia, & Nephew to Steno Sture the Elder: beyng yet a hostage (or rather a prisoner) in Denmarke, & hearing of so many euyls & calamities of his Countrye, going a hunting with other noble men of the Danes, he began to excogitate in his princely mynde, howe and by what meanes he might best escape & steale away. Occasion offered, & sequestring him selfe from the felowshyp of the Hunters: he declined his natural nobilitye, to the course countenaunce of a country man, & apparaled with the robes of a common labourer, he ioyned him self to a

He chaungeth his apparell wyth a labourer.

Marchaunt,

Marchaunt, and fayned to be a Muleter or a keeper of Cattel, tyl suche tyme as he was escaped out of the cõtry Lubec, and from thence was transported into Swecia. Where he did openly boldly and frankly declare, that he would reuenge the iniuries & losses of his country, & restore them againe to their auncient libertye, an enterprite more then his youthfull yeres couldc compas, but that the stoutnes of his minde did answer to hys boldnes. Moreouer, he was decked with such temperaunce, honesty, and manly prudence, as was rare to be founde in any of so grene and tender age. Therefore the fourth yere after the beginning of the bloudye warres of Christiern, Prince Gostaue chaunged his apparell, & hauyng on the rusty garmentes of a ragged country man: went about Swecia, declaring vnto them in how many manifold, cursed, and wicked euyls they were wrapped in, playnlye payntíng foorthe the wretched estate of them al, leauing nor omitting any thing that might kyndle or encourage the Country & Citizens to battel. He dyd not forgette to tell them, that they were not borne for themselues, but for their Countrye, to whose ayde & succour they wer bound of duty to forsake no peryl, no daunger, nor any trauel, beyng then at poynt to perishe wythout present helpe. He remembred them of all the facinorous factes that Christiern had committed, & also of the most great and greuous wickednes that hys flagitious company had executed, both against God & man without anyreuenge, which he to accomplish with them, wouldc halard his lyfe, no whyt regardyng it, in respecte of the earnest zeale he had to the cõmon vtility of his countrye men. Moreouer the comelynes of his parson dyd represent suche a Maiesty: that it declared his magnanimity

The heroycke of Gostaue.

The persuasions of Gostaue.

The comelye grace of Prince Gostaue.

to be adorned with a singuler valiant & stout courage.

The Dalecarlions be ꝑ most warlyke people of all Swedia.

Wherefore he tooke vpon him by their election, bothe to reuenge their wronges, & also to set them at libertye. For the accomplishment wherof, he leuyed soldiours of Dalecarly, ꝑ most warlyke people of al Swecia. They dwel about the mountaines that deuideth Swecia frō Norway, where there be mynes of Syluer & of Brasse.

Mynes of Syluer and Brasse

Which mettal places doth quickly moue them, & chiefely styre them aboue al things to be fierce in resisting their enemyes. Gostaue vsing the seruice of these men, went

The Danes lye in garyson at ꝑ city of Norosty.

against the Danes, that laye in Garison in the Citye of Norosse, where they dyd muche harme wyth violating, vexing, and troubling of the whole countrey. Now Gostaue (the Bysshop onely in name) & Traitour to his cōtry, driuen into a great feare with thys soudeine & new

The sudayn feare of Gostaue the bysshop.

daūger, sought al ꝑ wayes he could how he might ouerthrow this begun enterprise of reuenge. But the noble,

The gentle nature of Prince Gostaue.

valiant, and princely younge Gostaue Erichson, perceyuing his entent, dyd send a Messenger to the Bysshoppe, friendlye exhorting hym to leaue of & returne from hys old errors and treasons. Considering that his countrye men (not long tyme past) had tasted the fruites of sufficient, detestable, & abhominable mischiefes. The Bishop

The arogancy & disdaynfull pride of the bysshop.

receiued this gentle admonicion with such arogancye, & pride: that reading his honorable & curteous letters did spitefully cast them down, and vnreuerently trode them vnder his feete. The magnificent Gostaue (hauyng in-

Gostaue Erichson of ꝑ bloud royal

telligence thereof) beyng of the bloud royal, & Nephewe to them who had worne the crownes of Swecia: nowe demaunding his rightful inheritaunce of those that spoiled it: was the more greued with the despite of the Bysshop, which caused him to do that by ꝑ force of his regal

auctority:

auctority: that other wyse he woulde haue redressed by hys clemency. He led a band of trusty & chosen soldiours of the Dalekarlions agaynst him & his companye, who with smal power dyd ouercome him. The Bishop being thus subdued, with spedy flight went to Stockeholm, wher the rest of the Danes lay in Garison. But they cōsidering the might of the Swecians daylye to encrease: dyd determine with this Traitour, to sende for a newe army into the Country. With whiche promise he sayled to his tirannical companion into Denmarke. Where he was (as wel worthy) neither friendly receiued, nor gently entertayned, nor after ẏ was euer of any auctority or estimaciō wt Christiern. By what reason could he leaue, forsake, or shake of, the felowship & society of hym, who had cōmunicated their tyrannies, and ioyned their myscheuous myndes so often in one, being confederates together in al their dampnable deedes. The king of Denmarke was nothing inferiour to him in al falsehed & vntroth, not onely to his enemies abroade, but also to hys subiectes at home. A busy troubler of his country, wher in he was accordingly regarded: for wythin a whyle after hys returne, he was deposed from his kyngdome.

The Bishop ouerthrowē doth flye to Stockholm

Gostaue the Bishop sayleth into Denmarke.

The vnfrēdly discurtesi of Christern

The crowne thus taken from the kyng, and he beyng thrust out of the regal seat, Gostaue the Bishop without any glory or reuerence, lyke an abiect wandred through the country, & so continued in Denmarke tyll hys dying day. Christiern also poore & nedy, for certaine yeares had no place to abyde in, but destitute of al kingly furniture, was compelled to place hys feete vnder other mens tables, & glad to banquet wyth other mens dainties, onely necessity and want driuing hym there vnto.

The Bishop wandreth lyke an abiect, a iuste rewarde of treason.

Christiern beyng once a Kynge, is now poore & needy, glad to lycke hys lippes of other mens sauses.

Leauyng Christiern thus a Stragle, the most puis-

Prince Gostaue gathereth an host

Prince Gostaue beliegeth Stockholme.

launt Gostaue dyd leuy a mete and conuenient army of the Dalekarlens, the Swecians, and the Gothes, & followed the rest of the Danes that were fled into Scondia. He also beslieged Stockholme, wherein there was no men left, but onely the Garison of Christiern. The wynnyng of thys City was very daungerous to be attempted by assault: the place, the situacion, & artificiall strength of the towne resistyng them. Notwithstanding the vertue, myght and polecy of the Captayn was such, that they forceably wan it, & by assault dyd enter into it. The City thus taken, the valiaunt Prince Gostaue dyd prudently consider that al thinges was at a good point, the warres in euery place ended, & the whole Realme (voyde of theyr enemyes) to be at quiet: therefore he did very honorably & worthely reward his soldiours, euery one with ample & large gyftes according to his good seruice. This done, he opened the seas agayne & made safe and sure nauigacion for all Saylers.

The wars ended, Gostaue magnificentlye rewardeth his Soldiours.

¶ The most noble, magnificent, and vertuous Prince Gostaue, the onely deliuerer of his Country from al cruel bondage, vyle seruitude and misery: is worthely elected kyng.

By Prince Gostaues vertue, he liberted hys Country.

FOr the great goodnes that the most valiant, victorious, & triumphaunt Gostaue Erichson dyd, by incredible trauayle (wyth great trouble of mynde, and paynfull labour of body) bryng to hys country: and because he valiantly had reuenged the cruel wronges and horrible iniuries, wherein

where in his Countrymen were most miserably wrapped: The Rulers of the kyngdome, that yet remayned, whose happy lyues had not tasted the terrible torments & vehement furies of Chrystiern: and al the whole countries of Swecia & Gothland, with one voyce & one consent, both by right & deserte, dyd crowne hym kyng. And generally wyth glad mindes & ioyfull hartes they gaue him the Imperial sword: as one whose noble actes had worthely merited (both by succession & election) the regal place of his predecessors. By ryght he was lawfull kyng: no lesse nobly borne in birth, then valiaunt & magnificent in dede. Of no baser bloud, then his haught attemptes witnessed. Of no meaner parentage, then hys honorable doinges declared, & of no lower race, then his princely vertues shewed. By desert he dearelye bought the kyngdome: for he deliuered them from the most bitter bondage, & vyle thraldome of theyr cruel enemyes, he ransred their lyues from those that wold haue murdred them. He restored their auncient fame, from those that had defamed them. He liberted their Cities, from those that had distraúched them. He garded their goods from those that would haue spoyled them, and finallye he saued them from domestical peril and also defended them from outward daunger.

Gostaue is crowned kynge of Swedland, Gothland, & Fynland.

He is kyng by succession & election.

By right he is borne to the crowne.

By deserte he boughte the crowne.

The pleasures he did to his country

This prudent Prince by his wyldome, power & policy, with an inuincible mynde, for the reuenge & restoring of his Country, passed through a thousand perils (some tymes on the rough & ragged rockes of the Danes tiranny, & sometimes almost swaloed vp with the deuouring sandes of enuy) before he could attayne to the royall typ of his apointed estate. For the which Nature at the first had made him, vertue had cald him, & fortune had in the ende

Nature made hym, his vertues cald hym, & fortune plased hym in hys regall estate.

end brought him. Now al those that wylled wel to their Country, preferring honorable concord, before ciuill discencion, regarding publicke vtilitye more then common spoile, and, vnlesse it were suche that were enemyes to rest & quietnes, foes to the good, & friendes to the euyll, greedy catchers of other mens lyuinges, & prodigal wasters of their own, sowers of sedicion, & reapers of discēcion, styrrers and mouers to al stryfe & mischiefe (as no common welth is cleare without some of them) excepte these hop losses, not one but greatly dyd reioyce, & made their humble prayers to God: That his Maiesty might long raygne among thē at home with euerlastiug peace and tranquillity, & abroade against hys & their enemies with great conquest & victorye: & chiefly that his princely person myght be sure in both, Wyshing hys lyfe so to shyne in prudent vertue, that he myght be a myrrour & lyuely example to al mighty Kynges & rulers, whereby he should for euer be worthely saluted (& wyth the swift thundring trūpe of fame reported) for the best & happiest

The detestation of hop losses & ouerthrowers of Common wealthes.

They pray for the continuance of hys raygne.

After this triumphant maner, the noble king Gostaue receiued the crowne of Swetheland, Gothland, & Finland. Which Regimentes he did gouerne by such politik wisdome, and princelye prouidence, that ioyning wyth hys regal auctority great and laudable vertues, he euer mayntayned and nourished aboue al thynges, peace, loue and concord. Not withstanding the Sucalandes a few yeres past dyd a lytle trouble & vexe the country. Which sedicion was by his prudent wyse counsel so prouided for, and by hys diligent industry so pacified, that they florysshed wyth happy peace & desired tranquillity. To the confirmyng and luculently establyshyng whereof, was chosen certayne men, both godly, wyse and worthye, whose

Which what prudēce Gostaue ruled his country

A sedicion quickly pacified.

He ioyneth godly, wyse and learned men to hym

graue

graue counsels the kyng dyd cal to his kyngdome, wyth great lone and fauour: Namely George Norman, and Oliuer Holmes, both singulerly wel learned. The first for hys noble giftes of the mynde, wherein he dyd excel, and also for his godly knowledge in the scriptures: he was made Tutor and Scolemaister to the most princely and valiant Eric now Kyng of Swecia, & to Duke John hys Brother. And moreouer, for hys great experience and excellency of wyt was elected one of King Gostaues priuy counsel. The other named Oliuer Holmes, beside hys sincere and perfecte vnderstandyng of the sacred scriptures, and also his knowledge of other notable histories, was an expert and rethoricall Preacher.

George Norman, and Oliuer Holmens.

George Norman Tutor to prince Eric, nowe king of Swecia, and to Duke John his brother.

These two wyth others their lyke, dyd the king chose to be the principall members of hys kyngdome. Whose raigne could not by any meanes decay, but prosper with glorious fame, hauyng suche graue Counsellers to enstruct hys doynges, and preparyng suche instrumentes for the maintenaunce of hys regal estate. What expectacion was to be looked for in those tender and youthfull yeares of the most noble Eric (that yet were vnperfect) not onely hys princely and vertuous redynes (which as then by report began to bud out) but also the good education and learned enstruction of his Tutor, he beyng endued and brought vp in lyke condicion and lyke inclinacion wyth hym, myght bryng thys doubt in question: Whether the kyng or hys Country had most cause to reioyce. The Father for that he had gotten such a Child to rule after hym: or the Country for that they should haue such a Prince, both learned & wyse to raygne ouer them, he declared beyng young, what fruites he would yeld in age. Notwythstandyng, because Princes do often degenerate

Gostaue did prosper in glorious fame.

Occasion why there was good & great hope of the noble Prince Eric.

nerate from perfect Nobilitye, and altering their noble nature from the beginning, do incurre into a thousande euyls in the end (though his vertuous doinges hitherto haue yet set forth no such lykelyhoode) I leaue hys present prayses to the good or euil desertes of his actes hereafter. Not douting or it be long, to see the valiaunt and prosperous raygne of his Father in publicke print, who ruled the Swedians, the Gothes and the Vandoles the space of .38. yeares. Yelding nature her due, the yeare of Christ .1560. and left the crowne to his Sonne Eric, the 14. kyng of that name.

¶ The descripcion of Finland, after the auc= thoritie of Seba. Vounster.

FInlande is called a fayre Countrye, because it is more plesaunter then Swecia. Plini seemeth to name it Fimonia, of the bowing arme or bosome of the sea Fimonicus. It is so large a Countrye, that it once was called a kyngdome, but now it hath onely the title of a Dukedome. The Sclauons in this passed age did inhabite there, whych nacion vsed the Grecian language, so long as Molchus was Lorde ouer them. But now it is vnder the crown of Swecia, and doth vse the rites and ceremonies of the Western Churche. Muche wyne is transported thither, out of Spayne, by the sea Balthic, which the people of the Country much desyreth, onely to exhillerat their myndes. The inhabitants professed Christe after the Swedians, vnder Eric then king of Swecia. This Country doth excell Swedia, in corne and grain, both for plenty and goodnes, because it is for the most part playne, and not so fenny nor hylly as

Swecia

Swecia is. There be trym townes in Finland, as Gusta, a towne fortified for the warres, Abo their Bysshops sea, Raeburg, Viburg, Karelia a Dukedome. Abo is not far distant from Uplandia, Viburg is situated at the extreme borders and farthest bounded of all Fynlande, towards and against the Russes and Muschouites. It is the chiefe and principal place where theyr Soldiours and Garisons do lye, that defendes and kepes those people from inuadyng the Countrye. It is also a Warte towne of great trafficke, whereunto the Ruthines doo often frequent. They saye that the Northe pole dothe ryse ouer this town, aboue the horisont. 61. degrees and a halfe, and they nomber the length to be. 78. They account the degrees of Stockeholme to be in breadth. 61. and in length. 64. The Finnons haue continual warres wyth the Muscouites in the arme or bosome of the sea Finnonicus: dyng in Summer the ayde of Shyppes, and in Wynter they combat vpon the Isse. Howe populous was this Country and others lying aboute it, manye great and wyse men doo wytnes, as Methodius, Martir, Iordanus, Gothus, and Paulus Diaconus, the which Aucthors do wryte that this people dyd swarme out lyke Bees. And they call these Northe Regions the Store house or Garnar of Nacions, and chiefelye of them are proceded these names folowing.

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The	Gothes.	The	Parthians.
	Ostrogothes		Swedians.
	Uestrogoths		Lõgobardiãs
	Gepides.		Turcilingiãs.
	Samogets.		Auarians.
	Wallagets.		Herulians.
	Hunes.		Winulians.
	Amalons.		Sueuians.
	Cimbrians.		Bulgarians.
The	Suicers.	The	Scirians.
	Taliphaliãs.		Normanniãs.
	Danes.		Pictians.
	Sclauons.		Carpians.
	Rugians.		Caibians.
	Alanians.		Cimerians.
	Burgundiãs		Dacians.
	Sembrians.		
	Liuonians.		

The Inhabitantes of Fynland do speake twoo sundry languages. From Uiburg to Berga or Sibbena, they do for the most part speake the Sclauon tong, but nere the Sea coastes they vse at thys present the Swecian language, and in the myddest of the Country, theyr proper speeche. And on the lymeth and borders, they occupy both. Wherefore in manye places their Preachers doo preache and interpretate the Scriptures in bothe tounges. The Swedian language, and the same that the Gothes, the Danes, & the Norwaies do vse, is one, but that they haue sundry pronouncinges, and proper accentes.

accentes in voyce. They do also agree muche wyth the Germaines, as for example suche as can speake or vnderstand the Germain tong, may here reade the Lordes prayer in the Swecian language, whereby they maye iudge the difference of their speeches.

¶ The Lordes prayer in the Swecian Language.

FAder vuar som er i himulum, heiligat vuar de dit namen, tilkomen tit rike, sckedin vuillige som i himulum so opo iordene, vuar taglig brodh gif os itag verlath os vuaren schuld som vni verlatten vuare sckuldiger, och inledhos icke i frestilse, vt an lo'ssi froonda. Amen.

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